

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A polarizer comprising:

a polarizing element; and

at least one transparent protective film constituted by two layers of retardation films with an in-plane retardation in a range of from 190 to 320 nm with respect to light having a wavelength of 550 nm, said transparent protective film being bonded onto one of opposite surfaces of said polarizing element, wherein a slow axis of each of said retardation films is parallel with ~~an~~ the absorption axis of said polarizing element, said two layers of retardation films being constituted by a combination of a retardation film with N_z of from 0.65 to 0.85 and a retardation film with N_z of from 0.15 to 0.35 on the condition of $n_x > n_y$ and $N_z = (n_x - n_z)/(n_x - n_y)$ in which n_x and n_y are in-plane refractive indices of each of said retardation films respectively, and n_z is a refractive index in a direction of thickness of each of said retardation films.
2. (original): A polarizer according to claim 1, wherein said retardation film with N_z of from 0.65 to 0.85 is disposed on a polarizing element side.

3. (original): A polarizer according to claim 1, wherein said polarizing element is absorption-dichromatic.

4. (original): A polarizer according to claim 3, wherein said absorption-dichromatic polarizing element is made of a uniaxially oriented film of a polyvinyl alcohol compound containing iodine or dichromatic dye.